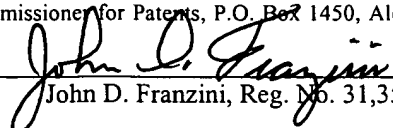


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-

Date of Signature and Deposit: 12/21/2005


John D. Franzini, Reg. No. 31,356



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven M. Akkala, et al
App. No.: 10/613,291
Art Unit: 3635
Examiner: Chi Q. Nguyen
Filed: July 2, 2003
Attorney Docket: 690296.00013 (Formerly 009801-0004)
Confirmation No.: 6705
Title: ACCESS HATCH COVER ASSEMBLY WITH LIFT-ASSIST
ASSEMBLY AND METHOD THEREFOR

AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the Application as indicated below and consider the following remarks in support of patentability.

A listing of the **claims** begins on page 2 of this communication.

Remarks in support of patentability begin on page 6 of this communication.